

COMMISSION CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 12, 2000

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Present: Mayor Naugle
Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Moore and Smith

Also Present: City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and Police Sergeant

I-A – Oath of Office – District III City Commissioner

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to the District III City Commissioner elected in the 2000 Special Municipal Primary Election held on December 5, 2000 – Commissioner Carlton B. Moore. Commissioner Moore expressed appreciation for the support of his mother and to those individuals who had worked on his campaign. He was pleased the voters had given him this opportunity to return to the City Commission to complete his term, and he was glad he could continue to work with the fine elected officials in Fort Lauderdale. Commissioner Moore also wished to take this opportunity to compliment Ms. Masliah, who had risen up through the ranks of the City structure to become the City Clerk, and who had handled a special election so efficiently and smoothly. The City Commission offered its congratulations.

Action: Oath administered.

I-B – Design Seminar – “Building an Urban Environment”

A discussion was scheduled on the results of Commissioner Katz’s Design Seminar, “Building an Urban Environment,” held on November 2, 2000. Commissioner Katz explained that when she joined the Commission, she had noticed there were problems with development because everyone seemed to have different visions. She had envisioned a process by which the development community, the citizens, and the City Commission shared a direction. Therefore, she had called upon some individuals she knew, and they had come up with the idea of having a seminar with professionals from around the world in the area of design and development to learn how other communities addressed these challenges.

Commissioner Katz stated that this group of people had worked with faculty from Florida Atlantic University, advisory board members, City planning staff and the Commissioners to develop a design plan and vision for the City. She introduced *Mr. Doug Coolman*, of EDSA, who provided a “Powerpoint” summary of the Design Seminar. He noted that the purpose of the Seminar had been to bring together major Fort Lauderdale stakeholders in an ongoing process to develop a long-term urban vision to be implemented by the City’s 100th birthday in 2011. Mr. Coolman noted that there had been 13 sponsors who had provided financial support or in-kind services. He advised that there had been about 18 participants who had worked together for about 90 days, and there had been guest speakers at the Seminar, including President Catanese, of Florida Atlantic University (FAU), Mr. Ken Greenberg, of Urban Strategies, Inc., and Mr. Bruno Freschi, former Dean of the School of Architecture at New York University.

Mr. Coolman listed some of the major points raised by President Catanese during the design seminar, including:

- The need for Fort Lauderdale to prepare to be the hub of a multi-centered urban region or megalopolis;
- The need for FAU to be ready to become active in needed public/private partnerships;

- The need to build on existing assets such as Las Olas Boulevard, Riverwalk, the waterways); and
- The need to build a strong downtown with mixed-use development and public transportation.

He advised that Mr. Greenberg had raised several important points, including:

- The need for a close working relationship with FAU in order to ensure urban planning success;
- The need for City stakeholders to target a common vision and build consensus;
- The need to reconnect the City with street level, mixed-use residential and commercial developments; and
- The recognition that all urban renewal began with existing resources.

Mr. Coolman stated that Mr. Freschi had highlighted upon:

- The need to involve the public in the design process and bring together the many different interests in a common vision;
- The importance of community meetings;
- The need for the involvement of a major university in the planning process; and
- The need for a creative planning process without limits.

Mr. Coolman pointed out that all 3 of the guest speakers shared certain recommendations:

1. The importance of a shared vision and community consensus;
2. The need for Florida Atlantic University to be a major player;
3. The need for mixed-use development at the street level; and
4. The importance of a public/private partnership.

Mr. Coolman stated that in the afternoon, approximately 70 Seminar participants had worked in small groups to answer 6 questions with the help of Mr. Freschi and Mr. Greenberg, with an eye towards guiding design principles that would:

- enhance and protect Fort Lauderdale's natural assets;
- celebrate and respect the City's nonconformity;
- institute performance guidelines;
- develop public/private partnerships; and
- evaluate short- and long-term development while dealing with current demands.

He advised that the first question upon which the participants had focused had been "How do we get everyone to agree on the guiding principles?" The resulting answers were:

- Create buy-in among the various stakeholders and bring developers and architects together;
- Use imported experts as advisors;
- Develop good leadership, e.g., FAU, to influence the community;
- Encourage a positive view of change;
- Develop a public dialogue to get the community to agree to common issues by identifying the stakeholders; and

- Encourage communication and public access.

Mr. Coolman stated that the second question posted had been “What height and density was appropriate, and how should we get consensus?” Participants’ answers had included:

- Increase height limits in exchange for public space and views;
- Develop performance standards based on livable densities and performance heights; and
- Take responsibility for density through streetscaping, pedestrian activity, and green space.

The next question the participants had studied had been “How do we deal with what already exists while planning for the future?” Mr. Coolman reported that answers to that question had included:

- Undertake needs assessment of the community;
- Protect important resources and views;
- Identify areas of the City that market forces have left behind;
- Establish a vision for each area; and
- Invest resources to develop the infrastructure and create incentives for the private sector.

Mr. Coolman said that another important questions Seminar participants had considered had been “How do we finance the vision?” Answers developed had included:

- Create incentives for the private sector;
- Leverage public money;
- Examine performance zoning;
- Consider gap financing;
- Create private sector incentives, such as tax credits, breaks abatements, density bonuses; and
- Examine methods to redistribute taxes.

Another question considered during the Design Seminar had been “How do we connect the many pieces of the urban landscape?” Mr. Coolman listed the answers brainstormed by the participants:

- Develop housing opportunities for all social strata;
- Balance land use with transportation;
- Change existing requirements to focus on pedestrians;
- Improve and increase the public greenway system;
- Increase density; and
- Create more mixed-use zoning.

Mr. Coolman advised that the final question considered had been “What are the next steps?” Answers developed to that question had included:

- Develop a planning exercise championed by well-respected community people;
- Engage FAU as a “broker” or moderator of that exercise;

- Encourage talents in the many needed disciplines; and
- Create a series of workshops with the broader community to create consensus.

Mr. Coolman said the purpose of this discussion was to get an indication from the Commission that this was the appropriate direction to take and approval for FAU to develop a series of recommendations for the next steps.

Mr. Don Singer had been a Fort Lauderdale architect for 36 years, and he felt the focus should be on making the urban growth in the City an amenity that went beyond just purely economic growth for everyone, but mostly for the people. The challenge was doing this without stifling growth or the sense of Florida that brought people to the area. He believed there were ways to create growth while maintaining that sense of Florida, and that had been the purpose of the Seminar.

Mr. Peter Magyar, of FAU, believed FAU could help the City realize an urban master plan on which there was community consensus. He thought it would be necessary to develop models and proposals in a logical progression of steps or phases in order to realize this goal.

Mr. Doug Eagon, of the DDA, thought it was important for the community to recognize that people would come to Fort Lauderdale, and the City could either decide on a vision or character or it would be something else anyway. He felt this was a wonderful opportunity to plan that direction with the appropriate leadership in order to preserve the quality of life that existed in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Eagon believed people liked how the beach and the downtown area were developing, but it was essential to plan for the future in a comprehensive fashion.

Mayor Naugle understood this group of advisors and FAU would continue to work together, and he appreciated the time and effort that had been invested by all the participants. He looked forward to hearing the recommendations that would be forthcoming. Commissioner Hutchinson agreed it was necessary to start planning to avoid piecemeal development, project-by-project and sidewalk-by-sidewalk.

Mayor Naugle suggested that if any Commissioners wished to add anyone to the existing Planning Committee, they contact Commissioner Katz. He noted that someone from the historical sector should probably be included. Mayor Naugle pointed out that one of the recommendations had involved celebrating significant historical events to maintain a “sense of place.” He stated that Mr. Tony Abbate, a local architect, was heavily involved in the Historical Society, and there were others as well. Commissioner Katz advised that Mr. Abbate was already a part of this planning committee.

Commissioner Katz agreed as many different facets of the community as possible should be involved in this process, including the cultural community. She hoped to have achieved a certain amount of planning by the City’s 100th Birthday in 2011, which would wrap history into the entire effort. Commissioner Katz suggested that she and the City Manager approach FAU to work out how the University could facilitate the effort. The City Manager said he would be happy to do so. He noted that there had been a joint meeting of this Commission and FAU some time ago, which had given rise to Commissioner Katz’s quest.

The City Manager noted that it might be best not to limit facilitation just to FAU since there were other organizations interested in this type of endeavor, such as the Joint Center of FIU and FAU. He always liked to generate a little friendly competition among the institutions of higher learning that had a presence in Fort Lauderdale. The City Manager also noted the need to involve those who had not been involved in these types of planning activities in the past. For example, there were portions of the City that had not been receiving the benefits of growth, and he thought CRA, CAP and redevelopment efforts should be tied together.

Commissioner Smith agreed with the City Manager. Although the downtown area was the City's most celebrated urban environment, but there were 33 square miles in Fort Lauderdale, and other areas might be appropriate for urban environments such as State Road 84 or 62nd Street. Commissioner Katz agreed. Mayor Naugle agreed as well and thought that was another reason for Commissioners to suggest additional committee members from different areas of the City.

Commissioner Moore expressed appreciation to Commissioner Katz for putting together this Seminar and finding sponsors and participants. He agreed with Commissioner Smith that Fort Lauderdale had a downtown, an uptown, and a midtown, and all of them should be included in planning efforts. Commissioner Moore also supported the City Manager's suggestion of involving the other higher education institutions, and he admired the commitment offered by FAU.

Commissioner Moore felt the City had to build relationships with the private sector in certain segments of Fort Lauderdale. He noted that there was a lot of private investment on the beach and in the downtown area, but there was a lack of private investment in other parts of the City. Commissioner Moore thought one way to address that was through competition and attraction to Fort Lauderdale, perhaps through cooperatives with the Broward Alliance and the Chamber of Commerce to target developers who might have an interest in some of the other areas of the City that lacked private investment.

Commissioner Smith wondered if there would be different discussions about different urban areas around the City or if there would be one general game plan about the design of urban environments applicable to all areas. Commissioner Katz thought it would be necessary to begin with an overall plan, followed by incorporating the CAP and other areas into that general plan. However, she believed it would take an expert to tell the City how to do it. Commissioner Katz also wished to note that FAU had an architectural and urban planning program, while Nova had more of a business program, and she had another idea in that respect that she had heard about while visiting Boston. She felt the City should take advantage of the expertise the various educational institutions had in particular disciplines.

Mayor Naugle agreed with Commissioner Katz ideally, but he did not want the process to be held up if terms could not be reached. He had every confidence that something could be worked out but, if not, some other institution could become involved. Commissioner Smith wondered if this would ultimately lead to changes in design regulations and the ULDR. Commissioner Katz believed so.

Commissioner Moore felt there was a need to deal with some incentives and with the transportation problem. He did not think there was any lack of investment interest in Fort Lauderdale, but there were concerns about investing in projects due to other impacts to the community. Commissioner Moore thought the City would have to be much more creative in terms of incentives, such as using federal incentives related to the Enterprise Zones. He wanted to make sure everyone understood how these incentives, which already existed, could be used to advantage. In fact, he believed the Commission might want to consider expansion of the Economic Development Office to sell these incentive packages that were already on the table. Commissioner Smith agreed it made little sense to develop design standards if there were no projects to which they could be applied.

Mayor Naugle wondered when the Commission would hear another progress report in this regard. The City Manager believed he and Commissioner Katz could provide a status report in January.

Action: As discussed.

I-C – Community Organization (Social/Cultural and Promotional) Funding

A discussion was scheduled about the City's policy on community organization funding. The City Manager noted that there had been considerable discussion about this policy, and a written report had been provided. However, the Assistant Finance Director was present to provide a summary.

Mr. Terry Sharp, Assistant Finance Director, stated that he had prepared a recent history of this funding and suggested some options for consideration. One was to maintain the status quo with the Community Services Board reviewing funding requests from social and cultural organizations, and the Economic Development Advisory Board reviewing requests from promotional organizations. He stated that another option would be to eliminate this funding altogether "cold turkey" and then react to requests as they were presented with monies coming from General Fund Contingencies.

Mr. Sharp stated that the third option was a middle ground position of selecting a few organizations the Commission felt could make significant impact with the monies provided through leveraging or by promoting a special project that could not be done otherwise with City staff.

Commissioner Smith asked how many other cities provided this type of funding. Mr. Sharp had worked in 3 different cities during his career, and all 3 had provided funding to community organizations. The City Manager believed most cities provided this type of funding, and every agency he had served during his career had entertained similar discussions at one time or another. He pointed out that one problem was measuring the effectiveness of these grants, and even if the amounts provided were relatively small, they could make a tremendous difference to certain agencies. The City Manager noted, too, that although the amount involved each year was a fairly small amount, it always caused a lot of angst because there was never enough to go around to all the agencies.

Commissioner Hutchinson did not want to stop providing this funding, but she had heard that the same groups were funded every year. She had heard from some groups that tried to get funding every year but never received any money. That was Commissioner Hutchinson's only concern. She wondered if there was a more fair method of distribution.

Commissioner Moore supported maintaining the status quo. He had always felt the City had done well in promoting non-profit organizations, although he had also felt the amount was insufficient. Commissioner Moore said he was a Board Member for the Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse, and that organization used a term limit method. He explained that each organization was funded for a maximum of 3 years. He wanted to fund these organizations, but worthwhile agencies should be able to establish relationships with the community to help provide funding in the future. Commissioner Moore believed that making each organization "sit out" for a year would afford opportunities for new organizations to prove themselves.

Commissioner Moore suggested that the overall amount for this purpose in the budget be increased, and that a consultant be hired to work with the organizations to prepare proposals that could be used to generate contributions and support from other aspects of the community.

Commissioner Smith noted that during the budget discussions, a philosophical question had arisen as to whether or not government should tax citizens to fund charities. He said there had been a lot of discussion about whether that was appropriate or whether people should be allowed to give directly to their chosen charities. Commissioner Smith wanted to make sure that issue was explored.

Commissioner Moore felt the government had the same obligation as private citizens to support worthy causes. He pointed out that some of the organizations, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, provided recreational programming that reduced the demand on tax dollars. Commissioner Moore also pointed out that the City's tax-supported budget provided for such things as tennis programs, which he considered a special interest as opposed to a social cause.

Commissioner Smith recalled that funding had been denied to 1 organization because it had decided to discriminate against certain citizens, but he did not believe there was anything in the Charter related to this issue. If the Commission decided to continue funding these organizations, he thought consideration should be given to funding only those organizations that did not discriminate. Commissioner Moore agreed. He also wanted information about the diversity of the Boards that governed the funded organizations.

Mayor Naugle agreed that information should be provided as part of the application process. He liked the idea of the Community Services Board reviewing the requests, and he felt it did a good job. Mayor Naugle referred to the 3-year funding limited suggested by Commissioner Moore. He wondered how that would affect organizations such as the Child Care Connection and the Area Agency on Aging, which received matching federal funds. Commissioner Moore believed those organizations had already been exempted from this process, and he felt that practice should be continued. However, he did feel information should be considered as to the number of Fort Lauderdale residents they assisted. He did not know if staff simply accepted the data provided in this respect or if audits were conducted to verify the information. Mayor Naugle did not think any audits were performed. Commissioner Moore felt that if organizations were claiming they were offering a certain level of service to Fort Lauderdale residents, they should be able to validate those claims.

Commissioner Katz thought the County took care of many of the social service organizations, and the City had so little money to divide among so many different agencies. She did not think it did a great deal of good as a result. Commissioner Katz pointed out that 50 to 100 requests were presented every year to the Community Services Board. Many performed very similar functions, and it was very difficult to divide a small amount of money among so many organizations. Commissioner Katz agreed that the organizations that received matching State and federal funds should continue to be funded, but she did not believe the other small contributions helped the small organizations much at all.

Commissioner Katz recalled that certain parameters had been established last year, indicating that the City wanted to target certain populations such as children and the elderly. As a result, however, the applications suddenly included aspects relating to those targeted populations in some fashion. Commissioner Katz thought the City should give up this practice and just contribute to the few organizations that received matching funds, like Family Central and the Area Agency on Aging. She did not feel the time and effort spent in this endeavor was worthwhile.

Mayor Naugle noted that this issue had dominated budget hearings over the past few years over a small amount. This year, there would be a Children's' Services Tax, and 17% of that tax would be collected from Fort Lauderdale property owners. Mayor Naugle was concerned about the idea of raising taxes to make charitable contributions, and he wondered if the City needed to be so involved in light of that action.

Commissioner Moore noted that \$100,000 might not seem like a lot of money to the City, but it meant a great deal to some organizations. He felt that some of the small organizations that received \$2,500 were then able to move forward in the funding cycle. Commissioner Moore believed the Commission had established priorities in terms of children and the elderly, so the new Children's' Services Tax could further that goal. In addition, a contribution from the City could make it easier for organizations to obtain funding from that source to ensure an equitable return on the amount paid by Fort Lauderdale residents. Commissioner Moore thought the City's small contributions might help organizations make better presentations for additional funding from other governmental entities. He preferred the 3-year funding process he had suggested earlier while teaching the organizations how to obtain funding.

Commissioner Katz preferred using the budgeted amount to educate agencies about how to obtain greater funding from the State and federal governments, and Commissioner Moore supported using a portion for that purpose. He did not think it would cost the full amount to provide that type of education.

Mr. Ken Strand agreed with Commissioner Katz. He felt the Children's' Services Tax would cost Fort Lauderdale taxpayers a great deal, and he did not think the City Commission should be spending a penny for these services because this was a County responsibility. He pointed out that the Budget Advisory Board had voted 3 times to do away with all this charity. Mr. Strand noted that the Commission had voted against supporting the Boy Scouts, which he did support, and the City supported various organizations that he did not support. Mr. Strand felt the taxpayers should make their own decisions when it came to charity, and he thought it was wrong for the City to force these contributions.

Mr. Mike Lockwood agreed the budget process had been trying, but he felt the City did a great job with its budget. He did not think the amount contributed by the City was a lot for a community of this size, and he felt the City had a certain level of community responsibility as well as the County. Mr. Lockwood supported maintaining the status quo.

Mr. Lockwood reported that the Charter Revision Board had examined the issue of agencies that discriminated. He stated that if the City Commission did decide to continue this funding, it might want to consider a Charter amendment related to anti-discrimination.

Mr. Mike Ferber concurred with Commissioner Katz. He pointed out that 1/10 of 1% of the City's budget was used for this purpose and, while all of the organizations did noble work, he felt this blurred the line between voluntary charity and compulsory charity. Mr. Ferber thought it was more appropriate for these organizations to persuade people to contribute rather than the City compelling them to make donations. He believed the difficult budget process this past year had been due to the fact that some people felt they were being forced to support a group they did not want to support.

Ms. Sally Watson felt every little bit helped, and no one could do something with nothing. She did not think the City should cut off this funding because it did help.

Mayor Naugle noted that Commissioner Katz had raised the idea of discontinuing this funding process. He had often struggled with the fact that these were really forced contributions to organizations the taxpayers might or might not support. He thought the fact that Fort Lauderdale taxpayers would be contributing millions of dollars to the Children's' Services Tax might make this a good time to address the issue. Mayor Naugle felt Commissioner Moore had a good idea about helping organizations obtain funding from other sources. It reminded him of when a company closed a factory, for example, it would hire someone to provide out-placement services.

Mayor Naugle pointed out that the City was required by the Charter to provide certain services to its taxpayers, and social services was something that was under the purview of the County government, which he felt was recognizing that responsibility now. Commissioner Moore pointed out that the Children's' Services Tax only addressed the needs of children, and many of the funded organizations were addressing other needs.

Commissioner Moore thought that if this funding were eliminated, the Commission would be hearing requests all year for various events with the promise of media exposure, such as swimming events that were televised, for example. He felt that a Little League team could also promote Fort Lauderdale, and that was true of any event that attracted visitors. Commissioner Moore did not want the City to fund promotional organizations if it eliminated funding for programs that benefited Fort Lauderdale citizens.

Commissioner Moore hoped that if this funding were eliminated, funding for recreational programming would be increased to make up for the organizations that provided such programming.

Commissioner Smith thought that instead of cutting off this funding “cold turkey,” the organizations should be weaned off the funding in the upcoming year. The City Commission could make a statement that this would be the last year this funding would be provided so the organizations could begin planning. Commissioner Moore suggested a 3-year period to wean the organizations from these monies. Commissioner Smith agreed some time period should be established, and he felt the Community Services Board should be solicited for input as to how to sunset this funding.

Commissioner Smith believed most of the citizens felt they should be doing their own charitable contributing, although he was concerned that many organizations would go without support. However, he did not see anything wrong with a Commissioner sponsoring a discussion about funding a special appropriation from General Fund Contingencies during the year. Commissioner Smith did agree, however, that this process should be discontinued over a period of time.

Commissioner Moore felt this process afforded a level playing field as opposed to consideration of events on a case-by-case basis. He believed that would result in funding organizations that had the political wherewithal to garner support. Commissioner Smith thought it would be much more difficult for the Commission to make contributions from General Fund Contingencies, and the requests would be very well considered. Commissioner Moore believed these types of requests would be raised at every meeting.

Commissioner Katz stated that under the existing system, new organizations without political wherewithal were already at a disadvantage. Commissioner Moore agreed that was why he had suggested that the City provide educational assistance in that respect. Commissioner Katz had no objection to the City providing some educational assistance in this fashion in order to obtain funding from other sources. Commissioner Smith felt that if the organizations were weaned from City funding, the Commission would know whether or not other sources were taking up the slack by virtue of the requests presented. If, in fact, that did occur, the Commission could consider reinstating this policy the following year.

The City Manager stated that the reason why this discussion had been scheduled for today was because it was time to start sending out instructions and applications for this funding in the next budget cycle. Since it appeared the Commission wanted to start weaning these organizations off this funding, he suggested that the Community Services Board be given an opportunity to make a recommendation in this regard. The City Manager said that the organizations could be informed that funding would be available this year but that the Commission was working toward a change in the policy for the next year. Mayor Naugle supported the idea and noted that the Chairman of the Board could attend a Commission meeting for a discussion in this regard.

Commissioner Smith supported the suggestion, but he reminded the Commission that it had established a policy of focusing on at-risk children and the elderly. He wanted to ensure that funding remained in place this year. Mayor Naugle had no objection as long as everyone kept in mind that money would be available through the Children’s Services Tax. Commissioner Smith also felt some language should be added to prohibit discrimination. Commissioner Moore thought diversity of Boards of Directors should be mentioned as well. Commissioner Katz believed it was already included in the application. Commissioner Moore understood that but felt it should be emphasized.

Action: As discussed. Recommendation to be requested from Community Services Board.

I-D – National League of Cities Conference

A discussion was scheduled with regard to the National League of Cities Conference attended by the City Commission December 5 through 9, 2000, as requested by Commissioner Smith.

Commissioner Hutchinson said this Conference had been a good time and a great opportunity to learn how communities were addressing different challenges. She thought the exhibit hall had been tremendous, and she had brought back some materials. One was a grants locator software program that helped locate grants that were available in Florida and nationally, and Commissioner Hutchinson gave it to the City Manager. She had also brought some information about streamlining solutions for building services that she had found interesting. Commissioner Hutchinson had some information for Sister Cities International as well.

Commissioner Hutchinson had noted that the City of Boston really celebrated the holidays. It did not appear anyone was afraid of offending anyone, and she thought the lights and the wreaths had been beautiful. She advised that the parks had all been lit up, and she had brought back a big display in this regard. As Fort Lauderdale celebrated its Riverwalk as the best part of the downtown area, she felt consideration should be given to providing similar displays. Mayor Naugle thought decorations in the downtown area might be a great project for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

At 3:31 P.M., Commissioner Moore left the meeting. He returned at 3:35 P.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson said she had attended a workshop called "American Downtown: New Thinking, New Life." It had been about downtowns that were struggling throughout the country, and it had been very interesting and informative. Commissioner Smith had also attended that seminar, and he had noticed that many small cities had taken advantage of that program. That had started him thinking about Fort Lauderdale's small "sub downtowns" like Sistrunk Boulevard and State Road 84.

Commissioner Katz said this had been the second Conference she had attended, and she had found the Mobile Mainstreet workshop particularly interesting. She had visited 3 small communities that the City of Boston was helping to get on their feet, and she had brought back a lot of information in this regard because it could work in various areas throughout Fort Lauderdale. Commissioner Katz had also brought back a tape of the Affordable Housing workshop, and there had been another workshop on new revenues for cities in the future. Another informative program had involved how to use universities as economic development engines, and she had brought back a lot of information in this respect and others for the City Manager and staff. Commissioner Katz advised that she had taped the workshops, and the speakers had all been excellent.

Commissioner Smith noted that one of the new "buzzwords" had been "smart growth." He pointed out that all the cities wanted to create pedestrian-friendly areas that were connected to housing. He also recalled that attorneys had a bad reputation for years, but now it appeared traffic engineers were gaining that poor reputation because the time of laying down more pavement was coming to an end.

Commissioner Moore stated that the President had addressed the issue of racism in the United States, and Fort Lauderdale had been listed as one of the cities that would be participating in the focus on this national and world problem. He was glad for that, but he was not clear on the method that would be used to focus on the problem. Commissioner Moore hoped some ideas could be discussed at the January 3, 2001 Conference meeting as to how Fort Lauderdale would be addressing racism.

Mayor Naugle advised that he had met with the City Manager about the issue of racism, and there had been a recent article in "Focus" in this regard. Commissioner Moore noted that one Mayor had championed diversity with monthly "family table" discussions. Commissioner Smith compared the idea to the foreign exchange program. Commissioner Moore agreed it was a local exchange program so people could become familiar with one another's cultures. After a year, people had come to the realization that they all wanted the same things in life – quality education, a safe environment, etc.

Mayor Naugle noted that the Commission had been invited to Texas for a training meeting about racial diversity, although there were some scheduling conflicts to address. Commissioner Moore hoped all of the Commissioners would receive information in that regard.

Commissioner Moore said the most interesting aspect of the Conference he had found had been being stuck in traffic in trolleys with other elected officials, which provided opportunities to discuss how other communities were dealing with various issues. He had also found it valuable to get involved with the various standing committees. Commissioner Moore wondered if the City could obtain some appointments on these standing committees. Commissioner Smith said he had tried to get appointed to a committee, but he had not been successful thus far.

Mayor Naugle advised there were 2 committee levels, and the policy committees required attendance at the national convention and at the Washington meeting. The steering committees required attendance at the national convention, the Washington meeting, and 2 others in the spring and the summer in various locations. Therefore, it could be very time consuming. Commissioner Moore acknowledged that was true, but it provided the best opportunities for establishing relationships with other elected officials.

Commissioner Smith agreed problems were the same everywhere, but there were different solutions. Commissioner Moore agreed. He also wished to note that Fort Lauderdale had been the talk of Boston because all of its Commissioners had attended the Conference. Commissioner Moore also thought the Florida reception had been the best.

Mayor Naugle advised that each President of the League had a theme, and "smart growth" would be the theme next year. He also noted that the next meeting would be in Washington, D.C., and the work plan for the policy committees would be developed at that time. He pointed out that this meeting also afforded lobbying opportunities, so it was very important. Commissioner Moore noted that he was running for 2nd Vice-President of the Florida League of Cities.

Action: As discussed.

II-A – Citizen General Satisfaction Survey

A report was presented on the results of the Citizen General Satisfaction Survey conducted by PMG Associates.

Action: None.

II-B – Pubic Services (Utility Services) Customer Satisfaction Survey

A report was presented on the results of the Public Services (utility services) Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted by PMG Associates.

Action: None.

II-C – Signalized Crosswalk on Northeast 62nd Street (Cypress Creek Road) Between Northeast 21st Road and Northeast 22nd Avenue

A report was presented on the proposed funding for the construction of a signalized crosswalk on Northeast 62nd Street (Cypress Creek Road) between Northeast 21st Road and Northeast 22nd Avenue.

Commissioner Katz felt this was a safety issue that should be funded. Mayor Naugle suggested a loan that could later be repaid from impact fees related to development on Cypress Creek Road. He pointed out that the project would cause additional traffic on that roadway. Commissioner Moore was not familiar with the proposed project, and Commissioner Smith explained that it was a mixed-use project proposed by Mr. Swerdlow. Mr. Pete Witschen, Assistant City Manager, noted that the project was just entering into the DRI process. Therefore, until the impact studies were performed, the amount of the fees to be generated would not be known. Commissioner Moore pointed out that many proposed projects were never developed as well.

Commissioner Smith understood that if the crosswalk was installed, at a cost of \$65,000, before the Swerdlow development took place, it could be more difficult to get the developer to pay for it. Mayor Naugle noted that the developer could agree to pay for it as part of the development approval. Mr. Witschen agreed a voluntary contribution was a possibility.

Commissioner Moore questioned whether or not the 22nd Street intersection was a “nexus.” Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, explained that the original intent, as part of the DRI, was that funds generated by the development could be used for traffic purposes. He thought this crosswalk would probably qualify, although this was probably not a “direct nexus,” but monies could be utilized on this corridor.

Commissioner Smith asked if the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) provided funds for signalized crosswalks. The City Manager advised that this was a County road. He anticipated County approval of the study, but the issue today was funding. Commissioner Smith inquired as to the cost of the design. Mr. Peter Partington, Engineering Division, estimated the cost at \$12,000, and the design was almost completed.

Mayor Naugle suggested funding the crosswalk as a loan to be collected from the DRI. If the loan could not be repaid in that fashion, it could be repaid from the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Commissioner Moore wondered why it was necessary to provide the signalized crosswalk now. Mayor Naugle replied that the neighborhood association was very concerned about the situation because it was dangerous. Commissioner Moore pointed out that there were similar intersections all over the City, such as the intersection of Sistrunk Boulevard and 19th Avenue. In fact, 2 people had been killed in that location, so he did not understand why this intersection was more important.

Commissioner Katz stated that there had been a traffic light in this location at one point in time, but it had been removed. Mr. Partington did not recall it, so it had to be more than 11 years ago. Commissioner Katz stated that this street had always been a very busy street because all the traffic coming from I-95 used 62nd Street. In addition, there was a school in one location, a grocery store at the other end, and the demographics of the community was changing. Further, a new park had been built directly behind Imperial Point Hospital. Commissioner Hutchinson added that 22nd Avenue was also the entrance to Imperial Point Hospital, and Commissioner Katz felt there was no safe way for families to reach the grocery store and the park.

Ms. Marjorie Davis stated that there was a serious problem on Northwest 6th Street with traffic moving at 60 or 70 MPH all day long. The situation was the same at Northwest 7th Avenue by the Post Office, and traffic had to wait 10 minutes to get through the intersection of Northwest 4th Street and 7th Avenue.

Commissioner Katz explained that the same process would have to be followed in the case of 6th Street as had been followed with respect to 62nd Street. She stated that the County had to grant approval of a signal since these were County roads. Commissioner Moore advised that the community had gone to the County Commission, but the request had been denied and 2 people had been killed since that time.

Commissioner Smith asked Commissioner Moore when that request had been presented to the County Commission. Commissioner Moore believed it had been 3 years ago. Commissioner Smith pointed out that philosophies about traffic and pedestrian friendliness had been changing, and it might be time to present the request again. Commissioner Katz added that there was also a new County Commission now.

Mr. Partington explained the problem was that the County used warrants, and the warrant for a signalized crosswalk was very difficult to meet. He noted that Commissioner Katz had taken the approach that 62nd Street and 22nd Avenue did not meet the letter of the warrant, and the County Commission had looked beyond it and granted approval although not funding. He thought a similar approach could be taken in the case of Sistrunk Boulevard.

Commissioner Smith asked if NCIP or BCIP funding would be appropriate for this use. Mr. Kisela stated that the NCIP and BCIP funding had already been programmed. Commissioner Smith believed future year funds could be used. Commissioner Moore was concerned about spending \$65,000 now without knowing if the money would be repaid. Mayor Naugle believed there was a very good chance the Swerdlow development would come through but, otherwise, future NCIP or BCIP monies could be used to repay the loan. Commissioner Moore preferred to get a commitment from the developer first rather than making a loan. The remaining Commissioners did not want to delay this improvement.

Commissioner Moore wanted a traffic light installed at Sistrunk Boulevard and 19th Avenue now. Mayor Naugle believed he would have to go through the same process. Commissioner Smith pointed out that there were roads all over the City that should be addressed, and they would all have to go through the process. Mr. Partington advised he could draft a letter to the County Administrator requesting that the issue of Sistrunk Boulevard be presented to the County Commission.

Ms. Sally Watson felt the entire City Commission should work together as a whole to address these types of traffic concerns as a unit rather than each Commissioner pursuing signals one by one. Mayor Naugle agreed with Commissioner Moore that there should be another signal installed if there were no signals between 15th and 24th Avenues on Sistrunk Boulevard.

Action: As discussed.

At 4:07 P.M., the meeting was recessed. It was reconvened at 4:13 P.M.

III-B – Advisory Board Vacancies

1. Board of Adjustment

Commissioner Smith proposed the appointment of Mr. Michael Ferber as an alternate member of the Board of Adjustment. Commissioner Katz suggested he be interviewed. It was agreed. Commissioner Katz also wished to interview Mr. Tim Hernandez. Mayor Naugle said he had planned to suggest consideration of Mr. Lakhi Mohnani, who was retiring from the Code Enforcement Board, but he would hold that nomination until another vacancy occurred.

Action: Interviews to be scheduled.

2. Budget Advisory Board

Commissioner Moore suggested Mr. Mickey Hinton and Mr. Lester Alexander be appointed to the Budget Advisory Board.

Action: Formal action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

3. Community Appearance Board

Action: Deferred.

4. Community Services Board

Action: Deferred.

5. Education Advisory Board

Mayor Naugle wished to appoint Mr. Jeffrey Moos to the Education Advisory Board. Commissioner Moore wanted to appoint Ms. Deborah Brown Frederick to this Board.

Action: Formal action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

6. Unsafe Structures & Housing Appeals Board

The Commission wished to reappoint Mr. Patrick Davis, Engineer, and Mr. Art Bengochea, Architect, to this Board.

Action: Formal action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

IV – City Commission Reports

1. Citizens' Volunteer Corps (CVC) – Beach Wave Wall

Commissioner Smith reported that the first project of the CVC would take place on Saturday. The plan was to touch up the wave wall in time for the season, and he hoped the Commissioners could all attend. He advised that Home Depot had agreed to provide all the supplies for the project, and the project would begin at 9:00 A.M. Afterwards, there would be a small function to officially kick-off the CVC.

Commissioner Smith noted that he would need the other Commissioners to appoint members to the Steering Committee. Mayor Naugle had forwarded his suggestions. Commissioner Smith stated that attendance at this first project might be lower than usual due to the holidays, but the Steering Committee would then work toward another project. Commissioner Moore advised that he would not be able to attend the event on Saturday, but he would forward a name for membership on the Steering Committee. Mayor Naugle thought that if this worked out like the "Make It Shine" Program, the result would be a wide variety of projects and volunteers.

Commissioner Smith noted that breakfast and lunch would be served at the event on Saturday. Commissioner Hutchinson advised that she had forwarded a name for membership on the Steering Committee.

Action: As discussed.

2. Brent Jett, Astronaut

Commissioner Katz reported that the County had renamed a portion of 56th Street in honor of Mr. Brent Jett, and she suggested extending that designation into the City. Mayor Naugle thought that was an excellent idea, and Commissioner Katz advised that she had contacted the Coral Ridge Isles Homeowners' Association in this regard.

Action: Approved.

3. Historic Preservation Board

Commissioner Hutchinson asked when a joint meeting could be scheduled with the Historic Preservation Board. She had received a lot of complaints about the process, and she thought it would be helpful to discuss it. Mayor Naugle suggested it be scheduled for January. The City Clerk believed the Board had wanted to discuss some issues first before scheduling the joint meeting, but she would follow-up.

Commissioner Smith hoped the Commission would know before the meeting what issues of concern should be addressed. Commissioner Hutchinson believed one concern was that the process might prevent the rehabilitation of some buildings. The Board members also had some issues to address. Mayor Naugle suggested that a list of the issues be prepared for the meeting.

Action: As discussed.

4. Code Enforcement Board

Commissioner Hutchinson recalled that the Commission had discussed the Code Enforcement Board not long ago, although the situation might change as new members were appointed.

Action: None.

5. Bell South

Commissioner Hutchinson advised that her sister-in-law worked for Bell South, and she believed Fort Lauderdale was the only City that issued parking tickets when trucks were parked to provide service. She explained that it was sometimes necessary for the trucks to park out front, for example, and it seemed silly to ticket them. It was Commissioner Hutchinson's understanding that Mr. Bud Bentley, Assistant City Manager, was looking into this issue. Commissioner Smith suggested a "Friday memo" in this regard. Mayor Naugle thought the trucks should park legally just like everyone else. Commissioner Hutchinson was seeking some direction, perhaps as to the use of parking permits or other devices.

Action: As discussed.

V – City Manager Reports

1. Parks & Recreation Director

The City Manager reported that he had interviewed several candidates and expected to be able to recommend a new Parks & Recreation Director by Christmas.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

NOTE: A MECHANICAL RECORDING HAS BEEN MADE OF THE FOREGOING PROCEEDINGS, OF WHICH THESE MINUTES ARE A PART, AND IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.